

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



**January 12, 2025 — Setting 12**  
**Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding**  
**Karina Roth, Musical Director**



*Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!*

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## **Introduction—Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

## **Prelude**

**Karina Roth**

## **Announcements**

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water --  
the local bodies of water,  
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,  
the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water:

**We praise you, O God, for water!**

We praise you, O God, for our water stories --  
a flood that cleansed the earth,  
the sea that drowned the enemy,  
a river that can heal leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

**We praise you, O God, for water!**

We remember the waters of Jesus --  
baptized in the Jordan River,  
calming the Sea of Galilee,  
drinking from Jacob's Well,  
healing at the pool of Bethesda,  
washing the disciples' feet,

We praise you, O God, for water:  
**We praise you, O God, for water!**

We praise you, O God, for this font.  
Through this washing  
bring us all to birth in the family of Christ,  
bathed in mercy and alive in the Spirit.  
We praise you, O God, for baptism.  
**We praise you, O God, for baptism.**

O God, you are the Ocean, the source of all life.  
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.  
O God, you are the Stream, restoring our community's strength.  
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.  
We praise you, O God, Almighty Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
today, tomorrow, forever.  
Amen, and Amen: **Amen, and Amen!**

**Gathering Hymn:**     *Jesus, the Light of the World*                    **ACS 914**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, **you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Children's Time**

〔 On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and hand it to a kiddo!* 〕

### **First Lesson**

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I

have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**<sup>6</sup> the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

**Second Reading:**

**Acts 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**    *“Our hearts burn within us”*    ACS page 33

**Gospel**

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Calvin Konop**

**Hymn of the Day**    *Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways*    ACS 916

**Holy Baptism**

**ELW page 227**

*All people who wish to be baptized come to the font.  
Bring your sponsors, your family and hymnal with you.*

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of God's People

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(A brief silence.)*

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery especially *Vera, Gene, Mark, Les, Hillary, Lynn, Bruce & Stacey, and the Rosbacka and Kristenson-Stieler families.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence.)*

Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## Offering

Bethlehem Choir

### Offering Prayer

God of grace, **your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

ACS page 36

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Words of Institution

ACS page 37

### The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. All are welcome!

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.*

## **Communion Music**

*Be Known to Us*

**ACS page 40**

*In This Feast of Love*

**ACS 962**

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer After Communion**

Nourishing God, **at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

*Born, Reborn*

**ACS 956**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**



**Karina Roth**

**Your prayers are requested for healing:** Vera Finn, Mark LaKosky, Les Donek, Gene Erickson, Hillary Freeman, Hank Ferland, Rhonda Schulte, Shae Lindholm, Joan Bieber, Emily Ulhorn, Lynn Schulte, Jody Daugherty, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Stephanie Radloff, Char Anderson, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, and Carol Ann. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227.*

**This week we lift up these members:** *Jon Gunderson & Teresa Shannon; Leif & Sissy Lunde; Crystal Nelson; Carolyn Dry; and Kristiana, Alfredo, Alecs, Levi & Malena Corona. May God walk with these friends in their journey of peace.*

**The memorial service for Darold will be held on Sat. January 18<sup>th</sup>.** Visitation at 11:00am, Service at noon, and Fellowship meal will follow the service. **The memorial service for Kati Kristenson Stieler will be Sat. February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am.** Fellowship meal will be at 11:00am.



## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Grand Marais, MN 55604

218-387-2227

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## Mission of the Month



## Global Refuge

Welcoming Newcomers Since 1939

### This Week at Bethlehem:

- Sun Jan 12 8:40 AM Choir practice  
10:00 AM Worship Service with Sunday School
- Mon Jan 13 11:00 AM Staff meeting  
3:15 PM Girl Scouts  
6:30 PM Executive Council
- Wed Jan 15 5:30 PM Community Meal  
6:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service  
6:30 PM Confirmation
- Thurs Jan 16 8:00 AM Bible Study  
9:00 AM Quilting  
6:00 PM Book Group  
6:30 PM Ping Pong
- Fri Jan 17 - - - - - Clarity Hearing
- Sat Jan 18 11:00 AM Visitation  
12:00 PM Memorial Service for Darold Rosbacka  
1:00 PM Fellowship meal
- Sun Jan 19 8:40 AM Choir practice  
10:00 AM Worship Service with Sunday School  
2:00 PM Care Center Worship Service
- Mon Jan 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - office is closed

**Pastor Calvin will be on vacation** from Jan 20—27. *We wish them well deserved R&R. Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis will preside at the Contemporary Service on Jan. 26.*

### ***Bethlehem Lutheran Church***

***417 First Avenue West, P. O. Box 638***

***Grand Marais, MN 55604***

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***Office Hours:***

***Monday—Thursday 8:00 am—3:30 pm***

***Friday 8:00 am—noon***



**Mission of the Month:** Global Refuge is a Faith-based organization with Lutheran roots that was formed in 1939 and was formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). **Global Refuge** assists with finding places to live, connecting with services and resources, learning a new language, enrolling in school, finding employment, and building a strong economic foundation as they integrate into new communities.

**Annual Meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup> following worship in the Fellowship Hall.** Come for the coffee An', stay to vote, speak your mind, and have fun. (Pastor Calvin has a few tricks up his sleeve just for fun!) Zoom link is available. Check out your e-weekly for the link.

**New Book Group:** *Walking the Old Road* by Staci Lola Drouillard, is the subject of the new book discussion. Studies are Thursdays from 6-7pm, Jan. 9— Feb 13. Questions? Contact Sue Hennessy (218-370-0224) or Kristin Lindholm (507-301-8379) **There is still time to join!** Contact the office for link to reading schedule.

**Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards** are available from BLC to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

**Coffee An':** *Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays?* Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

**Free Bibles:** Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex.

**Quilters are seeking more helpers, especially anyone that can sew quilt tops!** Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. We have several lovely kits ready for sewing.